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LETTER DATED 11 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 11 January 1991 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

I request that you have the text of the statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Guennadi I. OUDOVENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

The course of events in the Persian Gulf region has reached a critical stage. The hopes which peoples had set on the meeting between United States Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs Tariq Aziz were not, unfortunately, fulfilled. The collective will of the international community, which was demonstrated by the United Nations Security Council's resolutions in favour of a peaceful settlement of the crisis, are in essence being ignored by the leadership of Iraq.

All this gives rise to deep concern in the Ukraine. The Ukrainian SSR expressed its position vis-à-vis the Iraq-Kuwait conflict on the day it first erupted. In its statement on this subject, the Supreme Soviet of the Republic noted in particular that the Ukraine considers the use of force to settle any international conflicts not caused by acts of armed aggression to be unacceptable and stated that Iraqi forces must be withdrawn from the territory of Kuwait and the conflict solved by peaceful means.

In its address to the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, the Ukrainian delegation called for the full restoration and safeguarding of the sovereignty, national independence and territorial integrity of occupied Kuwait and emphasized that this must be achieved by political means.

In these troubled times, the Ukrainian SSR would like to draw the attention of all parties, and particularly of the Iraqi leadership, to their major responsibility for any possible dangerous turn of events in the region. Obviously, a further exacerbation of the conflict would bring the threat of massive military action whose disastrous consequences are difficult to envisage.

The present situation in the Persian Gulf requires that everyone make the utmost effort to seek ways of solving the conflict peacefully. In this regard, the Ukrainian SSR sincerely wishes United Nations Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar success in the complicated mission which he is undertaking to remove the threat of war.

All remaining possibilities for a peaceful settlement of the conflict must be explored.

Kiev, 11 January 1991